



LEAD-BASED PAINT

Contractors may be exposed to harmful concentrations of lead when cutting, sanding, heating, burning, welding, or blasting items that are coated with lead-based paint, including metal bridges, and metal storage tanks. For example, lead-based paint (LBP) waste is routinely generated when a residence or building is renovated, remodeled, demolished, abated, or delead. Federal laws require contractors to take steps to ensure that workers are not exposed to lead and to prevent LBP waste from making its way into soil, potentially contaminating surface waters. The resources below explain how the federal rules governing the management and disposal of LBP waste differ depending on the type of waste and its source.

Do you generate LBP wastes during the remodeling or rehabilitation of a residential building (e.g., a house or college dormitory)? Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers this a household waste, which can be disposed of as municipal waste and managed according to state and local requirements.

Persons who are involved in lead-abatement projects or who perform certain lead-based paint activities have to be certified to do the work under 40 CFR Part 745 or an authorized state or tribal program, and the work has to be done in accordance with work practice standards in 40 CFR Part 745. For more information on EPA's lead-based paint program, contact the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD (5323).